

## AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the specification at page one, delete the first paragraph following the heading “RELATED APPLICATIONS” and insert the following paragraph therefor:

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. 60/399,122 filed 2002 July 30. This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. 60/426,792 ~~60/425,729~~ filed 2002 November 18. This application further relates to U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nr. 09/581,949 filed 2000 June 19 and to U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nr. 09/885,342 filed 2001 June 19.

In the specification at pages one and two, delete the second paragraph following the heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” and insert the following paragraph therefor:

PCT international application number PCT/US98/27374, filed 12/23/1998, and designating the United States, PCT international application number PCT/US99/08768, filed 4/21/1991, and designating the United States, U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. 60/399,122, filed 30/7/2002, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. 60/426,792 ~~60/425,729~~, filed 18/11/2002, are incorporated herein by reference. The first incorporated application discloses an energy minimization technique for classification, pattern recognition, sensor fusion, data compression, network reconstruction, and signal processing. The incorporated application shows a data analyzer/classifier that comprises using a preprocessing step, an energy minimization step, and a postprocessing step to analyze and classify data. In a particular embodiment, the energy minimization is performed using IDMDS. The second application discloses a technique for merging ordinal data. In a particular embodiment, the merging process is performed using unconditional or matrix conditional, non-metric (ordinal) IDMDS. The third incorporated application discloses a modified energy minimization technique for improved and expanded classification, pattern

recognition, sensor fusion, data compression, network reconstruction, and signal processing. The third application additionally discloses a meaningful scale conversion and aggregation process for intermixed scale type data. The fourth incorporated application discloses a 2-phase technique for scale conversion and aggregation of possibly intermixed scale type data.